

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 3-14, 16-24, 26 and 27 have been cancelled and new claims 28-37 have been added. Claims 28-37 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing new claims is respectfully requested.

ITEM 5: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-14, 16-24, 26 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY ANDOH ET AL (U.S. PATENT 4,044,349)

ITEM 6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-14, 16-24, 26 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY SAKUMA (U.S. PATENT 4,384,287)

ITEM 7: REJECTION OF CLAIM 27 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(a) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY THE ADMITTED PRIOR ART

The rejections are respectfully traversed, as moot.

SUPPORT OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 28-33, 36 and 37 are based on the pulses of the drive waveform of FIG. 6A and claims 34, 35, 36 and 37 are based on the drive circuits of FIGS. 4B and 6B.

It is respectfully submitted that the newly added claims herein patentably distinguish over the references and rejections of record.

Particularly, the Action in item 5 relies on Ando et al., USP 4,044,349 and Sakuma USP 4,384,287, over which the herefore pending claims were rejected on grounds of anticipation in the preceeding Action mailed October 13, 2006. Both rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in new claim 28, first and second pulses with reverse (i.e. positive and negative, respectively) polarities are applied to first and second electrodes without connecting the first and second electrodes to ground potential.

Ando does not disclose any such method. According to Ando, the pulses in FIG. 4 are obviously based on ground potential, which is different from claim 1 herein, according to which the first and second electrodes are never connected to ground potential.

Sakuma likewise does not disclose the application of reverse polarity (i.e. positive and negative) pulses to the first and second electrodes without connecting them to ground potential.

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Further, claim 7 relates to a drive circuit for applying pulses to the first and second electrodes without connecting them to ground potential, which is not disclosed in Ando. The Sakuma circuit is based on ground potential, and Sakuma does not disclose a drive circuit in which no transistors are connected to ground potential, but, instead, are connected to the positive power supply and the negative power supply.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has clearly distinguished the pending claims over the references and rejections of record. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

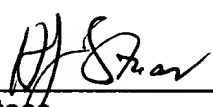
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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